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Pemberville Council weighs another tax request

By Larry Limpf
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Members of Pemberville Village Council anticipate a third reading of an ordinance to place an income tax levy on the May ballot will be heard at council's Feb. 4 meeting.

If a council majority agrees to place the levy request on May 6 ballot, voters in the village will then decide for the second time in seven months whether or not they want to increase the municipal income tax from 1 percent to 1.5 percent.

Voters in November rejected an increase of 0.5 percent in the tax by 105 votes: 326 For to 431 Against.

Currently, revenues from the 1 percent tax are divided into the general fund, which receives 60 percent, and the permanent improvement fund, which receives 40 percent.

The general fund covers operations of the police department, maintenance and fuel of village-owned vehicles, wages, office supplies, insurance and other expenses.

Permanent improvements include expenses for maintaining and improving buildings, streets, parks, and other assets that last more than five years.

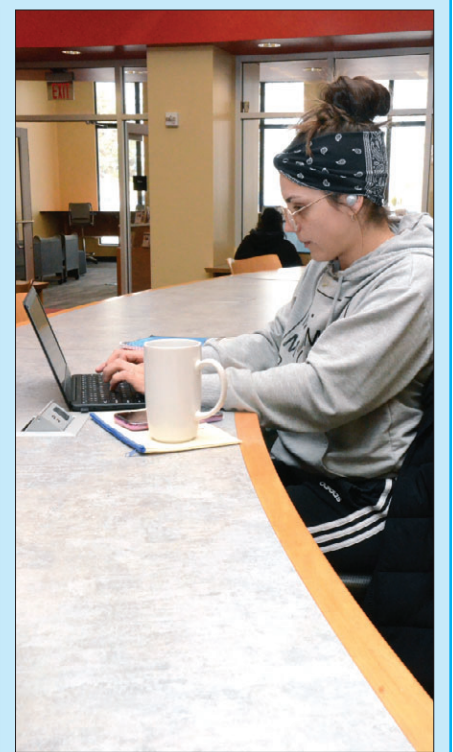
An informational flyer distributed to residents prior to the November election states that revenues to the general fund in 2023 reached \$435,722; about \$35,635 less than was spent from the fund - with the difference being made up by a carry-over from the preceding year.

The problem the village is facing has been with general fund revenues slipping, making it more difficult for the fund to have carry-over surpluses.

While the village isn't insolvent, "we simply need to 'rebuild' this fund so we can do the things that need to get done," the flyer states.

"It is harder to 'set aside' the funds to do the things that need to be accom-

Continued on page 2



Pictured: Brothers Archer and Talon Bailey check out the books while Samantha Gomez finds a quiet place to work during the reopening of the Oregon Branch Library on Jan. 23. (Press photos by Ken Grosjean)

Oregon Branch Library reopens after flood damage

By Nicholas Huenefeld
Press News Editor
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The Toledo Lucas County Public Library's Oregon Branch, located at 3340 Dustin Rd., reopened to the public on Thursday, Jan. 23 after being closed since August due to extensive flood damage from a plumbing failure.

No collection materials were damaged in the flood. The water was clean and

not sewage, so the repairs concentrated on removing and replacing any surfaces that became wet.

Over the past six months, the library worked closely with its insurance company and a restoration company on mitigation efforts, which included a complete drying out of the building, removing and replacing any damaged drywall, carpet and in-floor electrical elements.

The library, which coordinated with the City of Oregon and an architecture firm

to secure the permits needed to safely reopen the branch, initially believed the repair process would be just a few days, but it turned into a monthslong project.

Library hours are 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Sunday hours were also set to resume on Jan. 26, which are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and programming was to start back up the following day.

Genoa schools Board opts to try for levy renewal

By Larry Limpf
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It's official, the Genoa school board has decided to again seek renewal of a property tax levy that fell to defeat in November.

Bill Nye, district treasurer, said the required resolutions have been filed with the Ottawa County Board of Elections for placing an emergency levy renewal on the May primary ballot.

The levy was originally approved in 2015.

As an emergency levy, it is designed to generate a specific amount of revenue - about \$1.2 million annually - rather than collect a specific millage amount.

Nye said that revenue stream is about 8 percent of the district's general fund.

Audit completed

In other business, the board was recently informed the district met com-

“
In our opinion, Genoa Area Local School District complied in all material aspects with the compliance requirements...
”

pliance requirements of a state audit.

The audit focused on the district's compliance with standards for the general fund, student activities, athletics, as well as the major federal programs it participates in for the year that ended June 30, 2024.

"In our opinion, Genoa Area Local School District complied in all material aspects with the compliance requirements... that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs..." the audit report said.

However, an accounting practice the

district administration initiated in May 2011 is still being flagged in its audits.

"On May 5, 2011, the Genoa Area Local School District Board of Education approved as part of board resolution 88-11 the discontinuance of filing annual financial reports prepared using General Accepted Accounting Principles as an ongoing cost reduction measure," the audit report says. "The district does not have plans to correct the finding. The district will continue filing a cash basis financial report due to the cost of preparing a GAAP basis report."

Nye said the board followed his recommendation in 2011 to utilize a cash basis financial reporting format when he estimated it would save about \$5,500 that year.

He estimates the district has saved about \$100,000 since then by discontinuing filing using the GAAP system standards.

"Filing a GAAP audit is really changing financial information reporting into an outcome like the private sector does," Nye said. "Here we follow a cash basis."

Under cash basis accounting, income and expenses are recorded only when cash is received or paid, making it simpler to track cash flow. In contrast, accrual basis accounting recognizes income and expenses when they are earned or incurred.

Quote of The Week

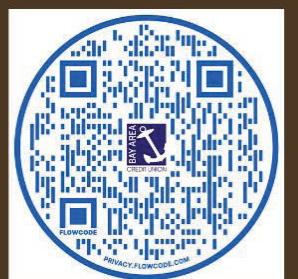
When it comes to improving America's health, out of sight cannot mean out of mind.

Kasia Mulligan
See page 8

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Tax request

Continued from front page

“ Things like purchasing vehicles, resurfacing roads or even properly repairing them to name a few.

”

plished in the village. Things like purchasing vehicles, resurfacing roads or even properly repairing them to name a few. On top of that, costs have increased dramatically. For example, the village insurance costs. In 2005, costs were \$63,264, but in 2023, the cost was \$108,498, a whopping 71 percent increase. That is just one way increased costs have affected the general fund.”

Patricia Rollins, a member of village council, said a more detailed flyer will be distributed if council votes to place the issue on the May ballot.

The village has been collecting the income tax since 1976, but sources of revenue for the general fund have fallen over the years, including the 2008 closing of the Modine Manufacturing Co. plant.

Prep kitchen contract OK'd

The Ottawa County commissioners have authorized a contract for an addition to the prep kitchen at the Assembly Hall building at the Ottawa County fairgrounds.

The contract will be with Telamon Construction, Inc., for \$290,700.



No school means winter fun

Fassett Junior High students Danny Harris, Treven Walsh and Easton Saffron gather snow to build a ramp at the Pearson Metropark sledding hill. Bottom photo: Treven Walsh takes his turn doing a sled jump. The school was closed that day for a teacher in-service day. (Press photos by Ken Grosjean)



Concert to offer bluegrass, gospel and classic country

The Pemberville Freedom Area Historical Society will present The Kevin Prater Bluegrass Band in concert Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pemberville Opera

House, 115 Main St.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at Beeker's General Store, 226 E. Front St., Pemberville; at the door or by calling Carol at 419-287-4848.

From the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, The Kevin Prater Band delivers their unique "Coal-Fired Pure Kentucky Bluegrass" with additions of classic country, grassed-up vintage rock, original songs

and emotion-filled bluegrass gospel music. The band is recognized and has been lauded for their stellar harmonies and a capella singing.

The concert is part of the ongoing Live! In the House concert series Visit pembervilleoperahouse.org. for more details.

Prices are subject to change without notice - Prices good Mon. 1/27- Sun. 2/2 Only

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Bend and stretch

Over 25 people gathered at the Eastern Community YMCA on Jan. 17 for Senior Chair Yoga. Top photo: Instructor Joe Sparks leads the class. Next to him are Nancy Klever and Carolyn Yenrick. Bottom photo: Joan Pence, Kathy Shope and Bonny Yaprugur lean into their chairs for an extra stretch. For more information call the Eastern YMCA at 419-691-3523. (Press photos by Ken Grosjean)



Legal protections for signatures

New consumer safeguards took effect Jan. 17 to protect Ohioans from having their signatures used without their knowledge or consent, Attorney General Dave Yost announced.

“A signature is a symbol of your identity, and you alone should decide how it’s used,” Yost said. “We’ve reinforced the law to shield your signature from deceptive attempts to use it without your permission.”

Yost’s office added a rule to the Ohio Administrative Code that establishes new consent and transparency requirements for businesses that collect and use signatures for reasons unrelated to transactions.

The rule forbids such businesses from including a person’s signature in letters, emails or other communications unless that person first gives affirmative consent – an explicit “yes” – to use that signature. The rule applies to both handwritten and electronic signatures.

The rule also requires businesses to tell consumers exactly how their signatures will be used. Specifically, businesses must disclose the message that will be included with the signature, the instances in which the signature will be used, the message’s author and the message’s recipients.

Violations of the rule are considered deceptive acts under Ohio’s Consumer Sales Practices Act and can result in legal action from the Attorney General’s Office.

Yost proposed the rule last year after learning of numerous Ohioans whose signatures allegedly were included in letters without their consent. Recognizing a gap in state law, the attorney general sought to strengthen Ohio’s legal safeguards against deceptive practices by adding protections for signatures. Nearly 300 people voiced their support for the rule during a public comment period.

Health dept. clinics

The Ottawa County Health Department, 1856 E. Perry St., Port Clinton, has issued a schedule of clinics for the week of Jan. 27-31. Appointments may be made by calling 419-734-6800.

Jan. 27: Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Jan. 28: WIC Clinic, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; 60+ Clinic – Danbury, 8 a.m.-2:15 p.m.; Tuberculosis Clinic, 3-4 p.m.

Jan. 29: Family Planning Clinic, 8-9 a.m.; Immunization Clinic, 12-4:30 p.m.

Jan. 30: Reproductive Health/Health Chek, 8-10 a.m.; Tuberculosis Clinic, 3-4 p.m.

Jan. 31: Immunization Clinic, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Foundation accepting grant applications

The Ottawa County Community Foundation (OCCF) is accepting grant applications for 2025-26.

OCCF grants support special projects in the fields of education, health and social services, economic development, natural resources and the arts.

“Today’s struggles in our communities are greater than ever,” says OCCF Grants Chair Mary Coffee. “OCCF looks forward to partnering with our county nonprofit agencies, in 2025, to help those in need.”

Last year, the foundation awarded 58 grants totaling more than \$116,000 to local nonprofit organizations. According to Coffee, \$76,000 of that total was awarded to 34 nonprofits as part of the annual community grants cycle. Additional grants throughout the year supported training in the skilled trades, science field trips to

Stone Lab, dyslexia training for school- teachers, the Top Ten Banquet, and Rapid Response opportunities.

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations located in or serving Ottawa County are invited to submit a request for grant funding. OCCF Community Grant applications will be accepted until Saturday, March 1, 11:59 p.m. via an online application portal. For a link to the portal, visit ottawaccf.org/grants. Note: OCCF utilizes the Greater Toledo Community Foundation’s (GTCF) grant portal to accept its community grant applications.

Applicants will see GTCF information to begin the process and must click on the Ottawa County Community Foundation description to access the logon page. First-time applicants must create an account to begin. Previous grant applicants may log into their existing account to begin a new application.

For questions regarding a grant submission, contact Coffee at coffee.occf@gmail.com or 419-341-7400. Questions

about establishing a fund may be directed to 419-635-7750 or ottawaccf@gmail.com.

Ottawa County Community Foundation (OCCF) is a public charitable organization established in 1999 to improve the quality of life in Ottawa County. OCCF administers more than 100 donor-established funds totaling approximately \$12 million in assets.

Since its inception, the foundation has distributed more than \$8 million in grants and scholarships.

Retire/rehire meeting set

The Oregon Board of Education has announced that Jane Fruth will be retiring as the treasurer for the district and is seeking re-employment to her same position after retirement. The board will hold a public meeting Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. at the Clay Media Center, 5721 Seaman Rd. to consider the re-employment of Ms. Fruth.

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Former FirstEnergy execs indicted

Two former FirstEnergy executives have been indicted by a federal grand jury and charged with one count of participating in a racketeering (RICO) conspiracy.

Charles E. Jones, 69, of Akron, and Michael Dowling, 60, of Massillon, were to appear in federal court in Cincinnati.

It is alleged that Jones and Dowling participated in an enterprise (FirstEnergy Corp. and its subsidiaries) through a pattern of racketeering activity – including bribery, money laundering and obstruction – to increase the company's stock price and enrich themselves. Although the defendants helped pursue the legal interests of FirstEnergy, Jones and Dowling also corrupted FirstEnergy by allegedly abusing their positions of trust and engaging in criminal activities in pursuit of personal and commercial gain.

Jones served in senior executive positions for FirstEnergy, including as President and CEO, from approximately 2015 until his employment was terminated in 2020. During that time, Jones made approximately \$65 million in compensation. Approximately \$60 million of his earnings came from performance-based pay tied, in part, to FirstEnergy stock prices. Dowling served as Senior Vice President at the time of his termination in 2020. Part of his pay was also tied to company financial performance and growth.

The 42-page indictment lists how Jones and Dowling allegedly acted in support of the RICO conspiracy, including schemes to bribe former Ohio House Representative Larry Householder and former Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Chairman Samuel Randazzo.

According to the indictment, between 2017 and March 2020, FirstEnergy paid more than \$59 million to 501(c)(4) entity Generation Now, which Jones and Dowling knew was operated for the benefit of and controlled by Householder. The bribe money helped Householder gain the position of

Speaker of the House and pass and uphold House Bill 6, a billion-dollar nuclear plant bailout to benefit FirstEnergy.

It is alleged Jones and Dowling used a different 501(c)(4) entity, Energy Pass-Through, to fund with FirstEnergy money and direct payments to Generation Now and other entities they believed were associated with public officials for FirstEnergy's and the officials' benefit. Dowling allegedly referred to the 501(c)(4) as a "political tool."

The indictment also alleges that Jones and Dowling pushed for FirstEnergy-approved appointments to the state public utilities board, including Randazzo as PUCO Chairman. In January 2019, FirstEnergy allegedly paid Randazzo's

companies more than \$4.3 million for Randazzo providing favorable official actions for FirstEnergy through PUCO proceedings.

The indictment alleges that Jones referred to Householder as his "expensive friend," and thanked Randazzo after PUCO, under Randazzo's leadership, took action in 2019 that Jones attributed to raising FirstEnergy's stock price.

After the passage of House Bill 6, Dowling wrote, "Huge bet and we played it all right on the budget and HB 6 – so we can go back for more!"

The RICO conspiracy as charged in this case is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Bill introduced to repeal electric plant subsidies

State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan has announced he will reintroduce House Bill 120 from the 135th General Assembly, which would fully repeal and refund subsidies being paid by Ohioans to bail out two unprofitable Ohio Valley Electric Corporation coal-fired power plants – one of which is located in Indiana.

The subsidies were established in House Bill 6 of the 133rd General Assembly.

To date, Ohio consumers have been paying approximately \$150 million each year in fees to OVEC, and if left untouched, Ohioans will pay roughly \$1.1 billion in costs by 2030.

H.B.128 from the 134th General Assembly repealed the nuclear bailout portion of House Bill 6 that is linked to the bribery scandal involving Larry Householder, a former speaker of the House of Representatives.

However, Ohioans continue to prop up OVEC's two failing coal-fired power plants. The bill's announcement comes af-

ter Governor Mike DeWine last week declared his support for repeal of the remaining parts of the legislation.

Additionally, it follows two indictments of two former FirstEnergy officials, former CEO Chuck Jones and ex-Senior Vice President Michael Dowling, by a federal grand jury for racketeering involving more than \$60 million in bribery to pass House Bill 6, which also included the \$1 billion power plant bail out.

House Bill 120 would:

- Terminate and repeal the customer-paid subsidies to two OVEC coal facilities.
- Require full repayments of all revenues collected from Ohioans to date.
- Prevent future customer-paid subsidies to two OVEC coal facilities.
- Bipartisan efforts to repeal these charges have the support of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Ohio Manufacturers' Association, the Environmental Law and Policy Center, and other groups.

Ohio Republicans introduce Senate Bill 1

By Nicholas Huenefeld
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Ohio Republicans announced Wednesday a higher education package, Senate Bill 1: Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, which focuses on eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion programs, prohibiting faculty from striking and firing poorly tenured professors.

The bill, which is led by Sen. Jerry Cirino, R-Kirtland, is partly built upon the Senate Bill 83 that failed at the end of the previous two-year legislative session. The revamped bill features many similar things as its predecessor. And with support from new GOP legislative leaders, there's a chance it could succeed once hearings on the proposal start the week of Jan. 27 with the Senate's Higher Education Committee.

Eliminate DEI programs

Senate Bill 1 aims to eliminate DEI from Ohio's college campuses. Universities wouldn't be able to conduct training or orientation about DEI, have a DEI office or list DEI in job descriptions.

Furthermore, schools wouldn't be able to offer any new scholarships based on DEI, which is an expansion of a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down

affirmative action in college admissions at Harvard and North Carolina.

The proposed law would eliminate DEI programs entirely, not just prohibit mandatory ones. The exception would be for research grants that require DEI. In those cases, a university must ask the Ohio Department of Higher Education for an exception.

Ban faculty strikers

Senate Bill 1 aims to prohibit full-time faculty from striking. Cirino had removed the strike ban from the failed Senate Bill 83 as a concession to House lawmakers, but it's back.

Changes to faculty, degree elimination

In an attempt to run universities like businesses, Cirino's bill aims to empower university trustees, who are appointed by the governor, to act more like a business' board of directors.

Trustees would reevaluate how often faculty must teach, research or provide clinical care to avoid disciplinary action, remedial training or termination - even if they have earned tenure – every five years.

Universities and colleges would also be tasked with eliminating any undergraduate degree program if fewer than five students have earned degrees in it over three years.

Faculty would also undergo annual

performance evaluation, including feedback from peers and students. Tenured faculty members who don't meet expectations on two of their three most recent performance reviews could also face discipline or termination with a post-tenure review.

Other items in the bill include:

- Reduce the length of terms of members of boards of trustees from nine years to six, while still allowing for multiple terms.
- Require professors to post course syllabi online for everyone to see.
- Require schools to adopt policies promoting full intellectual diversity.
- Prohibit universities from accepting gifts or donations from China.
- Require a three-hour course in American history with a focus on constitutional and other founding documents to receive a bachelor's degree.
- Prohibit an ideological litmus test in hiring decisions.
- Prohibit schools and professors from taking positions on a "controversial belief or policy," such as climate, foreign policy, electoral politics, immigration marriage and abortion.

Community conversation

Lucas County Children Services is sponsoring another in its ongoing series of "community conversations," to be held Jan. 27, 5 to 7 p.m. at the East Toledo Family Center, 1020 Varland Ave.

The free, open conversations begin with the topic, "Safe Children, Safe Families." LCCS staff, along with representatives of other community agencies, will discuss many of the concerns that families experience today, and the options that families and caregivers have to prevent child abuse and neglect:

- LCCS' role, and what happens when you call 419-213-2273.
- Ways that families can address issues without LCCS intervention.
- Services for youth and adults that are available in your neighborhood.
- How to de-escalate a situation or family conflict.
- Who to call in an emergency.

"The community feedback to date has been both constructive and valuable, leading to some internal adjustments in how we as an agency engage and serve the public going forward," explains Hope Bland, Ph.D., LCCS director of diversity, equity, inclusion, and strategy. "We continue to believe that by going out into individual communities, we can better connect with families to provide services that are relevant and accessible," she adds.

The details of one of those changes will be unveiled and discussed in more detail by LCCS leadership at the public meeting. Light refreshments will be available. Further meeting information is available at 419-213-3727.

Habitat volunteers

Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County is accepting homeowner applications and looking for volunteers.

The Ottawa County branch is building four homes this year for people who are in need of better or affordable housing, willing to partner with the organization and able to pay an affordable mortgage.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident, must not have owned a home in the past three years, must not have a bankruptcy or foreclosure in the last three years, must have lived in Ottawa, Lucas, Wood, Erie or Sandusky counties for the last year and your income must fall within their guidelines depending on family size.

Applications are being accepted Sunday, Feb. 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Oak Harbor. If you are unable to attend, please email Director@HabitatOttawaCounty.org for an application.

Advocacy Center hires finance director

The Family Advocacy Center has announced the hiring of Aaron Taylor as the new part-time Director of Finance.

Taylor will oversee the Family Advocacy Center's financial operations, including budgeting, financial reporting, compliance, and strategic planning. His leadership will be instrumental in helping the organization navigate its financial goals while continuing to provide critical services such as the Summer Lunch program, TNT Mentoring, Fuel for Kids and the Grandlove program.

"We are thrilled to welcome Aaron to our team," said Connie Roe, Executive Director of the Family Advocacy Center. "His extensive financial expertise and passion for supporting families align perfectly with our mission. We are confident that his skills will help us continue to grow and serve the community in meaningful ways."

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The Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals Vehicular homicide conviction upheld

By Larry Limpf
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The Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction of a woman involved in a September 2023 fatal vehicular accident on the High Level Bridge in Toledo.

According to court records, Jewel Martinez was driving 82 miles per hour on the wrong side of the bridge when she struck an approaching vehicle head-on, killing the other driver. Her blood/alcohol level was .18. She was also driving under suspension due to a prior conviction for operating a vehicle while impaired.

In December 2023, she was indicted on two counts of aggravated vehicular homicide, two counts of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and one count of driving while under an OVI suspension.

Martinez' appeal stems from a hearing on Jan. 9, 2024 in which a Lucas County Common Pleas Court judge denied bail for the defendant, finding that there was no condition of release that could reasonably assure the public's safety following the defendant's indictment.

Martinez' appeal argued the section of the Ohio Revised Code pertaining to denial of bail violated the U.S. Constitution because it authorizes automatic detention without due process safeguards.

Martinez also contended the trial

court violated the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution by allowing the prosecution to request a bail hearing without the defendant being represented by counsel; and the court erred by denying bond before holding a hearing or making any findings.

In April 2024, Martinez entered guilty pleas to one count of aggravated vehicular homicide, a first degree felony; one count of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, a first degree misdemeanor; and one count of driving while under an OVI suspension, a first degree misdemeanor.

The remaining charges were dismissed and the trial court imposed a prison term of nine to 12 years.

The appeals court noted that while Martinez' appeal was restricted to the Jan. 9, 2024 judgment of the trial court, the guilty pleas must be considered in the appellate review.

"A defendant who enters a guilty plea waives the right to raise most issues on appeal unless such errors are shown to have precluded the defendant from voluntarily entering his or her plea..." the appeals court wrote. The voluntariness of appellant's (Martinez) guilty plea is not before this court in this case."

The appeals court also noted that the Ohio Revised Code "expressly authorizes a hearing to be held 'On the judge's own motion,' as the record shows was done in this case."

Oak Harbor American Legion to host comedy fundraiser

By Yaneek Smith
Press Contributing Writer
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It's all about coming together.

The American Legion Post 114, located in Oak Harbor, is hosting its annual spaghetti dinner, which will feature a comedian, on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 5:30 p.m.

Doors open at 4 p.m., and the comedian's act starts at 7:30 p.m.. The cost is \$20 per person. Tickets are available by calling 419-898-5888.

Oak Harbor native Ben Knauss, the post's commander, wants to bring more veterans, like himself, to the legion.

Knauss, a 2006 graduate of Oak Harbor High School, talked about the non-profit organization.

"The money goes towards helping other veterans," he said. "It goes out to the community during Thanksgiving and Christmas, for example. It's everything we do."

Because he's a veteran, Knauss can sympathize with the struggles veterans can deal with after they're done serving.

"We're always here for them — it's a no-judgment zone," he said. "We've all been through it together. It's easier for them to open up. All these fundraisers go (towards helping) veterans, especially if they're struggling. It's a safe place for veterans to talk."

"You never know, they might become a member and start helping other veterans, and that circle of trust gets bigger and they can start helping out more people," Knauss said.

Oak Harbor Residents encouraged to attend village's Safe Routes to School public input meeting

Press Staff Writer

The Oak Harbor community is invited to provide feedback on the Village of Oak Harbor's School Travel Plan at a public input meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Village Hall on 146 N. Church St.

Local planning consultants, Reveille and Mannik & Smith Group, have been assisting the village in the plan's development, meeting with school officials and identifying areas along critical routes to school in need of safety upgrades.

The recommended infrastructure and non-infrastructure countermeasures will be reviewed during the public input meeting with opportunities for comment and feedback.

The village's Safe Routes to School Travel

Plan is being developed with guidance from a 10-member committee comprised of village and school officials representing all Oak Harbor public and parochial schools.

The goal of the program is to assist communities in developing and implementing projects and programs that encourage and enable children in grades K-12, including those with disabilities, to walk or bike to school safely. The plan is centered on developing programs and solutions that follow the Ohio Department of Transportation's five "E's" — education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering and evaluation.

Those who are unable to attend the public input meeting may email comments or ideas to Becky Barton at bbarton@oakharbor.oh.us by Feb. 5.

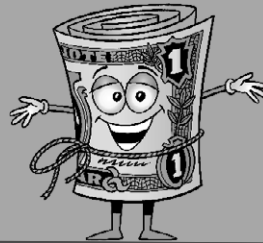
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This week in Toledo's past:

Events in the Toledo area over the past 150 years

January 26 -February 1

January 26

1921 - Toledo Police display their entire fleet of "crime fighting" vehicles, which include seven old discarded Ford jalopies and a few broken motorcycles. Council quickly approves funds for six new police cars and 15 motorcycles.
 1978 - Massive blizzard hits Northwest Ohio, creating worst conditions in more than a century. Most of area is paralyzed. With 15 inches of snow and massive drifting, businesses, highways and schools are closed for days. City doesn't recover for many weeks. The "Blizzard of '78" remains the storm against which all other winter storms in the region are measured.
 1992 - UT student Melissa Herstrum is kidnapped and murdered by UT policeman Jeffrey Hodge who is convicted and sent to prison for life.

January 27

1893 - Anti-Catholic movement grows in some areas of Toledo with groups forming to defend against fears of a violent Catholic uprising. Mayor orders police to search for weapons at St. Hedwig's Catholic Church on Lagrange Street.
 1900 - Townspeople of Delta are shocked when Oliver Pike returns to the town after he had been buried four years prior. A man identified as Pike was in the town cemetery, but Pike was in Chicago at the time and wasn't aware he had been declared dead.
 1933 - Bowling Green area farmers create disturbance when they show up for a farm foreclosure auction and only bid pennies for property. They intimidate those who want to bid more. This becomes the first use of the so called "penny auctions", a tactic which became popular among farmers during the Great Depression.
 1951 - Toledo Blade reports on overcrowding conditions, fire hazards and inadequate

Toledo Historical Museum
 by Lou Hebert




Barney Oldfield.

treatment of staff at Toledo State Hospital.
 1984 - Macy's Department Store, formerly LaSalle's, in downtown Toledo closes for good.

January 28

1897 - Nitroglycerin explosion at Cygnet kills two people.
 1928 - World famous artist and painter of hunting dogs Edmund Osthau of Toledo dies in his Florida winter home.
 1938 - The government jobs and public works program, the WPA announces it will hire another 1,500 workers in Toledo.
 1977 - State of Ohio hit by severe cold, dropping temps to below zero. Governor James Rhodes orders businesses shut down because of natural gas shortage.
 1978 - Ohio National Guard troops arrive at Toledo Express Airport with heavy equipment to begin helping area agencies dig out from the massive Blizzard of '78 that still holds area in icy grip.

January 29

1878 - Future car racing great Barney Oldfield is born in Wauseon in Fulton County. He later moves to Toledo where he grew to adulthood and became one of the first champion racers of bicycles and cars in the nation.
 1905 - Classified ad in News Bee offers 70-acre farm, barn and house near Curtice for \$4,000.
 1924 - Toledo Police Detective William Julert dies while disarming suspect when weapon falls to floor and discharges.

January 30

1891- Fire in Cygnet in Wood County destroys several buildings and kills three people.
 1902 - Toledo fireman Ralph Westfall killed in blaze at Henry Rosen's Junk Warehouse.
 1929 - Edward Williams, an elderly one-armed Toledo ash-man saw his livelihood tumble into ruins when his blind horse bucked up too far and plunged down a 75 foot embankment on the Maumee River. The horse was severely injured and Williams' wagon was left in pieces on the riverbank.
 1935 - A 21-year old Clarence Brown is arrested on Forsythe Street in East Toledo for masterminding a massive Midwest counterfeit money ring. Brown, said he was raising money for medical school.
 1945 - Tragic fire at 915 Indiana Ave when a heater exploded in a home and killed five children.

January 31

1905- An East Toledo man was ordered to the state hospital for treatment after his wife said he was obsessed with eating snowballs and reading the bible.
 1922 - Prohibition triggers wave of alcohol poisoning from people trying to imbibe raw alcohol and spirits. Health department reports 300 poisonings and 20 deaths in previous year.

1932 - Toledo Fire Department ladder truck and a city bus collide on Collingwood Avenue. Two Toledo firemen are killed. Captain Andrew Flynn and Bernard Orzechowski of Number 16 Hook and Ladder Co.
 1945 - A baby boy, not more than 2 days old, is left abandoned in a cardboard box on front steps of a home on Ontario Street. Police are searching for his parents.

February 1

1863 - First mass is held at St. Patrick's Church in Toledo.
 1908 - The Majestic Theater on South St. Clair Street opens. It was a silent movie house that later became a Harry's clothing store.
 1921 - Community Traction begins service with street car operations.
 1936 - Toledo first-grader Barbara Lewis Lamont celebrates her sixth birthday, with a bullet in her brain. Shot accidentally 18 months prior, doctors fear surgery might do more harm than good. Girl said to be doing well in school studies.
 1953 - Toledo's Water Commissioner reports that city water use plummets during popular TV shows, then spikes when programs end. "I Love Lucy" ranked number one in this water ratings system.



Prohibition triggers wave of alcohol poisoning.



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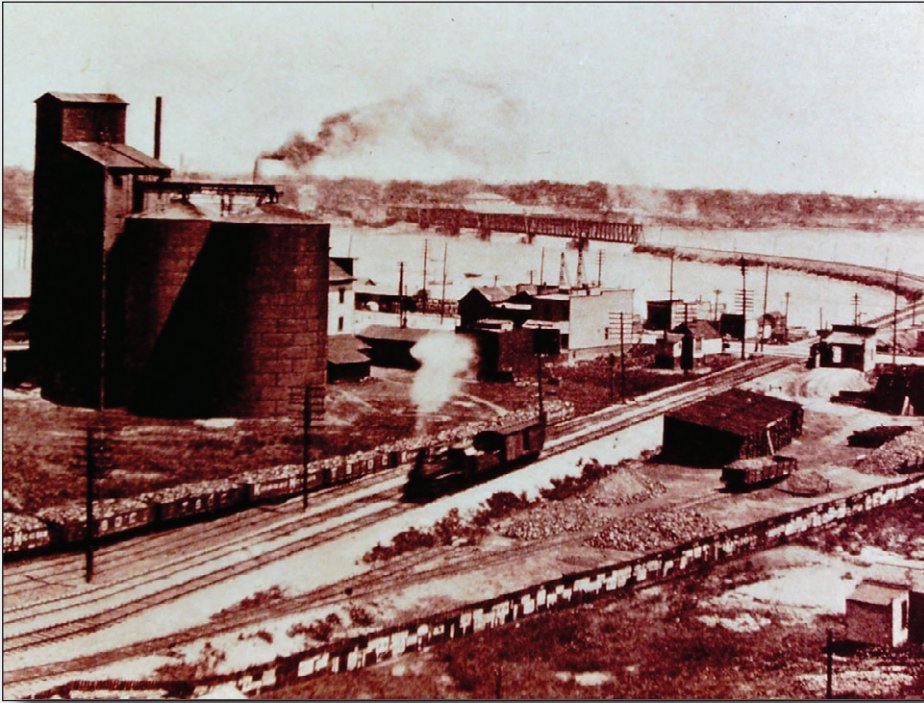
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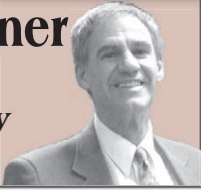
Railroad Yards, 1905



The large grain elevator in this 1905 photograph stood next to the busy railroad yards in what is now International Park. The view is NW toward where the Pennsylvania tracks crossed Main Street and then curved out over the water, where the Sports Arena (1947-2007) would later stand, to the Penn Station on Summit Street. For many years, a familiar viaduct carried the tracks above Main Street.

History Corner

East Toledo
Historical Society
by Larry Michaels



Real Estate Transfers



Bay Township

01/17/2025 Jim L Bowman and Jo Ellen Bowman to William D Huffer JR and Mary E Huffer, 531 South Findlay Unit # 138 and Unit #139, \$65,000.

Catawba Township

01/14/2025 Sunshine Estates Builders LLC to Kenneth A Strah and Lind M Strah, 2422 Torino Drive, \$779,000.

Danbury Township

01/14/2025 Kathy S Krupp to Scott J Venema and Kathryn L Venema, 938 Church Road, \$410,000.
01/17/2025 Darlene. Davis, Trustee to David R. Wahlers, Trustee, 6294 SR 163, \$248,500.

Elmore Corporation

1/14/2025 Millhimr Properties LLC to Andrew Schlagheck and Chelsea M Schlagheck, 403 Lincoln Street, \$167,000.

Genoa Corporation

01/14/2025 Victoria Sallee and Rnadall Habel Jr to Daniel R Kleinhans and Yolanda Kleinhans, 308 West Street, \$172,000.

01/17/2025 The estate of Paul Stevens to Justin Fafard, 902 Main Street, \$14,500.

Marblehead Corporation

01/16/2025 Jason & Olivia Barr to 818 W Main LLC, 818 West Main St., \$525,000.

01/17/2025 Jon Robert Pietruszka, Kristy Ann Pietruszka (Co-Trustees) to Baltic Lake IV LLC, 4423 E. Forest Glen Lane, \$2,550,000.

Portage Township

01/16/2025 David A & Caroline M Swihart to John Ezell & Sandra Chevalier, 1151 Ottawa Dr. \$462,000.

01/16/2025 JDM Island Development LLC to Future Real Estate Enterprises LLC, 2656 & 2650 E Harbor Rd., \$850,000.

Port Clinton Corporation

01/17/2025 Brayden Jeffries and Melanie Jeffries to Lesley DR Buccilla and Jerry K Buccilla, 148 Maple Street, \$161,736.

01/17/2025 WVDG LLC to Optimus Development LLC, 117 Madison Street, \$300,000.

Rocky Ridge

01/13/2025 Steven A. Goetz to Joshua J. Maxwell, 14980 Woodside Dr., \$250,000.

Salem Township

01/16/2025 Lesley L Nickel to John R & Veronica S Buehler, 9230 Stump Rd, \$250,000.

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Opinion



Should Ohio taxpayers give Jimmy Haslam \$600 million for a new Cleveland Browns stadium?

By Rob Moore

It's budget season, so the lobbyists are out in full swing.

Tennessee billionaire and gas station tycoon Jimmy Haslam, known up here as the owner of the Cleveland Browns, is purportedly drumming up support among lawmakers for a \$600 million subsidy for a new Browns stadium and that money could be proposed as soon as the Governor's budget request.

For comparison, this is about as much as the state allocated for highway maintenance across the entire state in 2025. It's a chunk of change.

So what will we get for this investment? Will the Browns be able to scrounge up more than three wins by a combined 13 points and a three-way tie for last in the league if we throw hundreds of millions of dollars at them?

To be fair, there have been no public promises that Haslam and company will produce a team that avoids embarrassing the state if they get this subsidy. Public

arguments have been pretty threadbare: the city of Cleveland has been hostile to the idea of a new stadium. This seems to have shifted Haslam's eyes down I-71 to see what kind of success he can have under the dome in Columbus getting help to pay for the project.

So far, the reception has been tepid. New Senate President Rob McColley said he was opposed to a "handout" to the Browns when he heard about the proposal. Some policymakers are kicking around backing the project with state bonds, bumping the cost up to \$3 billion and using some of that money to develop nearby hotels, restaurants, and housing.

So let's get back to the meat of the issue: why would we do this? What is it about football stadiums that makes a businessman or a lobbyist think he can credibly waltz into a lawmaker's office and shamelessly ask for hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars? I mean, these aren't utility companies we're talking about.

The case lobbyists make for stadium subsidies is fundamentally economic. With

a professional football team, your state will get on television. People will travel from far away to visit your city, they will stay at your hotels, they will eat at restaurants, and you will become a destination.

The consensus among economists is that this story is a fantasy. Yes, economic activity will increase around a football stadium: it can be an anchor for a flurry of economic activity once a week twenty times a year. But where does this money come from?

Entertainment budgets are not flexible. If someone didn't go to a stadium, they would probably go to a bar, restaurant, movie, play, or live performance somewhere else in the city. So new economic activity is not created, it simply is shifted from one part of the city to another.

A study published in the Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis just a few months ago underscores this economic consensus. For a professional sports team or stadium to be anything other than a net negative on the local economy, it needs to (a) attract visitors from other cities, and (b) get its

owner and players to spend a significant share of their income in the area.

So if legislators are going to take this seriously, they need evidence of three things. First, they need to see that this new stadium will bring significant numbers of new visitors to Ohio. Second, they need to see that Jimmy and his team are spending a lot of their own money in Ohio. And third, they need to see that this is a better investment than transportation infrastructure, education, broadband, and the many other priorities they will have to put aside to give Jimmy a new place for his team to play.

Rob Moore is the principal for Scioto Analysis, a public policy analysis firm based in Columbus. Moore has worked as an analyst in the public and nonprofit sectors and has analyzed diverse issue areas such as economic development, environment, education, and public health. He holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of California Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Denison University.

Trump administration can't overlook this health care threat

By Kasia Mulligan, Patients Come First
TheCenterSquare.com

One of the central promises of Donald Trump's 2024 campaign was to "Make America Healthy Again."

With limited details on how exactly he plans to achieve this and uncertainty surrounding the confirmation of his selected agency heads to lead the initiative, all eyes will be on Washington to see how the new administration delivers on the MAHA agenda.

Improving America's health is no small task – it will require addressing everything from a broken food system to the nation's chronic illness epidemic. However, one issue that has flown under the radar will need to be addressed if the MAHA agenda is to succeed – the growing burden of litigation weighing on America's health care system.

Although the issue has not received significant attention in the mainstream media, the rise in mass tort litigation over

the past few years has become a substantial factor in the health innovation ecosystem. When a company is targeted with a lawsuit, it consumes a significant amount of money, attention, and time, diverting resources away from the core business mission. In the case of biopharmaceutical companies, this means less funding flows into critical research and development efforts, ultimately delaying the development of novel treatments and therapies.

Delaying innovation is not just an academic matter – it has a host of unwanted real-world consequences. Many diseases and conditions currently have no treatments available, and even among those that do, the options are often inadequate or insufficient to offer patients the relief they deserve.

This is just reality. The only way to change it is for medical innovation, primarily driven by the private sector, to continue. While the biopharmaceutical industry has delivered many incredible treatments in recent years, the growing burden of

litigation threatens to prevent this progress from continuing.

Some may think that issues like mass tort litigation are too abstract to be relevant for improving America's health. But nothing could be further from the truth. Patients are at the very end of the complex medical innovation ecosystem. Everything from research to testing to securing regulatory approval happens upstream of the patient's experience.

When it comes to improving America's health, out of sight cannot mean out of mind. If the foundational research that drives innovation slows down or halts altogether, patients will eventually experience delays in accessing new products – if they ever get them at all.

Treatments that arrive five years later or novel medicines that never arrive at all are serious barriers to care. The harm may be harder to see compared to other problems plaguing the health care system, but it is no less real.

Indeed, the threat of costly litigation

acts as a wet blanket across the entire innovation ecosystem. In addition to diverting resources from valuable research and development, companies adapt to the hostile business environment by becoming more risk-averse in choosing which innovations they pursue. After all, if a company that delivers a novel treatment can be forced into bankruptcy by a lawsuit, they are more likely to invest in churning out more of the products that are already proven and safe.

While building on past success is fine, the way to make America healthier is to develop groundbreaking treatments. Protecting this innovation and the lifesaving treatments it delivers to patients must become a top health care priority for our nation's leaders.

Kasia Mulligan is national spokeswoman for Patients Come First, a national patient advocacy organization that will fight against policies that create barriers for patients and cause delays in innovation.

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Stop trying to impress others, do your own thing

Peter and Jean have two kids and live in a modest suburban neighborhood. The children are in grade school and both Peter and Jean work. Like most Americans, they have a very comfortable life. Also like many people, Peter and Jean are concerned about the impression they make on others.

Peter and Jean feel as if they are in competition with their friends and neighbors. From the cars they buy to the activities their children are involved in, Peter and Jean are constantly concerned with how they compare to other people. The clothes they wear, where they go on vacation, the way their home is decorated, and who they socialize with are all carefully chosen to be impressive.

Rather than just doing their own thing, Peter and Jean are constantly concerned about how they are viewed. Whatever their own needs and aspirations might have once been have been replaced by their desire to impress.

It's easy to get caught up being con-



Golden Advice
by Bryan Golden

cerned about how we are seen by others. All of us want to be accepted and thought well of. We think that if others are impressed, they will look up to and think more of us.

Whether or not someone is impressed by you doesn't matter. Regardless of who you are, what you do, what you own, or how much money you have, some people may be impressed, others won't care, and some may even have a negative impression of you.

Fads and trends exist because of those who are concerned about how they are perceived. They feel that if they have the latest and greatest people will be impressed.

As soon as something is considered out of date, they abandon it in favor of the latest replacement.

Do you really care about what other people do in their quest to impress you? Does it matter to you what someone else has or does? Perhaps you may occasionally be envious. More often, you are probably too busy with your own life to be concerned about how another person is living. You have likely been in situations where you thought someone who was trying to impress you was trying to show off or was all wrapped up in their ego.

Since you aren't really impressed by what other people do, why be concerned about whether or not anyone is impressed by you? You should be focused on what you want along with what makes you happy. Don't worry about what others think about you. It doesn't matter at all.

What have you accomplished when you impress someone with what you own? Are you going to be happier? Will your life

be better? Often, those who have the goal of impressing others are insecure, always worried that they will be upstaged. This creates unneeded stress and anxiety.

That being said, there is nothing wrong if people are impressed by who you are or the way you act. When you are a good person and live in a way that benefits others you needn't be concerned about anything else. The most impressive people are those who follow their convictions without seeking adulation.

Being humble, striving to be the best person you can be while constantly working to improve yourself, and always being considerate of others are impressive character traits. These attributes are never out dated.

Enjoy life. Nothing is lost if some people shun you because you don't have what they consider an impressive lifestyle. People worth associating with are attracted to you for who you are. They will be there regardless of what you have.



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Crowns & lab coats: Miss Ohio 2024 sets the stage for Girl Power



Miss Ohio 2024 Stephanie Finoti will be the keynote speaker at Girl Power – a STEAM career day for girls in grades 3-8 – March 8 at Imagination Station. (Submitted photo)

Imagination Station will welcome Miss Ohio 2024 Stephanie Finoti as this year's keynote speaker at Girl Power, set for Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the science center, 1 Discovery Way.

Finoti wears a crown and a lab coat and is the epitome of women in STEAM, showcasing to young girls that Miss Ohio is a scientist and scientists can be Miss Ohio.

A student at the University of Cincinnati, Finoti is pursuing her dream of becoming a pediatrician while studying ballet. Additionally, she works at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Fetal Therapy Center and as a nurse aide at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Neonatal ICU.

Girl Power is a STEAM career day that invites girls in grades 3-8 to explore different activities while discovering how these

passions shape their future careers. They'll learn how their go-to lip gloss starts with science during cosmetic chemistry, how coding robots relates to using apps on our phones and how to discover the cosmos with new technology.

"At Girl Power, girls get to see how their favorite activities are intertwined with STEAM," said Sloan Eberly Mann, chief education officer at Imagination Station. "When girls in our community make that connection and see empowering female STEAM leaders—like Miss Ohio Stephanie Finoti—they envision themselves in those positions in the future."

Tickets are available online at imaginationstationtoledo.org/programs-events/girl-power/

Bay Area Credit Union
salutes Penta Career Center's
January Student of the Month.



Samantha Keller



Samantha is a senior from Oak Harbor High School and is enrolled in the Exercise Science & Sports Medicine program at Penta Career Center where she holds a GPA of 4.092. While at Oak Harbor, Samantha was active in FFA and student council. She has been a member of the varsity track and cross-country teams for three years and is a member of the National Honor Society. At Penta, Samantha is an honor roll student and is a student ambassador. She also is a member of the Drug Free Club and the National Technical Honor Society. Samantha is a member of both HOSA and SkillsUSA, career-technical student organizations. During the 2025 HOSA Regional Competition, Samantha earned second place in the Physical Therapy contest and will advance to the Ohio HOSA competition in April. She also takes College Credit Plus classes through Owens Community College. Samantha works at McDonald's and previously worked for Oak Harbor Pet Haven and the Community Markets.

After completing her training in Exercise Science & Sports Medicine at Penta and graduating from Oak Harbor High School, Samantha plans to attend college to earn a degree in occupational therapy. At this time, she is undecided as to which college she will attend. She is the daughter of Anthony Keller.



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Salutes Gibsonburg
High School's January
Student of the Month!



Grant Dawson

Grant has a GPA of 4.193 and is ranked 15th in his class. He is a member of the Spanish Club and went to Buckeye Boys State. Grant participates in Football, Basketball, Baseball, Travel Baseball (Next Level) and Track & Field. He is a member of the Spotlight Singers and Theatre.

Grant, the son of Katrina and Gary Dawson, plans on attending Mount Union to major in Pre-Law and Business. He is also going to continue his Track & Field career there.



The Union Bank Co.

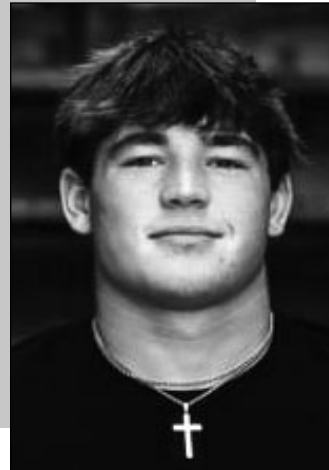
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State Bank

Salutes Eastwood High School's
January Student of the Month!

Conner Norton



Connor has a GPA of 3.731 and is ranked 42nd in his class. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Pep Crew, Senior Executive Council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Connor participates in Football, Wrestling, Baseball, Captain's Training and the Eastwood Sports Network.

Connor, the son of Mindy and Mike Norton, plans on attending a four year college to major in Business then attend graduate school for a 2 year MBA degree.



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SOPHIA ZUNK

**OAK HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

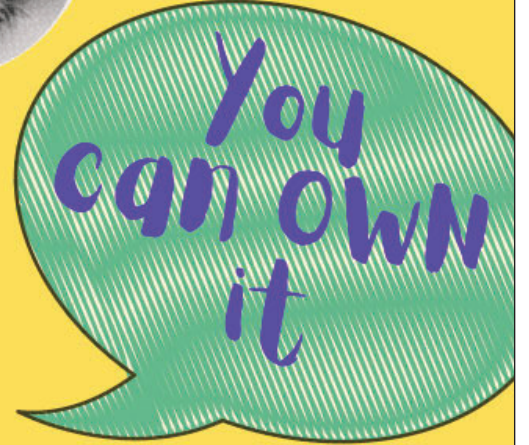
Sophia has a GPA of 4.1 and is ranked 4th in her class. She is active in Golf, Theatre and is a member of the National Honor Society. Sophia is a member of St. Paul UCC Church in Oak Harbor and volunteers at Riverview Health Care.

The daughter of Margie Zunk and Bill Zunk, Sophia plans to attend Bowling Green State University to major in Social Work with the hope of becoming a Family Social Worker.

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GENOA BANK

**Salutes Lake High School's
January Student of the Month**



**Troy
Studneski**

Troy has a GPA of 4.344 and is ranked 9th in his class. Troy participates in Football.

Troy, the son of John and Molly Studneski, plans on attending college to major in Mechanical Engineering.



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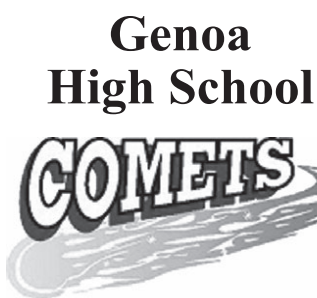
**Salutes Genoa High School's
January Student of the Month**



**Lindsey
Cashen**

Lindsey has a GPA of 4.1932 and is ranked 5th in her class. She is a member of the Student Council, National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society.

Lindsey, the daughter of Tom and Heather Cashen, plans on attending the University of Toledo to major in Physical Therapy.



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Sports

Heintschel leads All-Press selections for football

By Yaneek Smith
Press Sports Editor
sports@presspublications.com

Area football players impressed yet again, and many, who were among the state's finest, earned recognition for their efforts this past season.

Clay QB Mason Heintschel was one of the state's best players, so it's no surprise he would be named the Alan Miller Jewelers' All-Press Offensive Player of the Year.

The senior, who is headed to the University of Pittsburgh to continue his career at the next level, completed 188-of-272 passes for 2,444 yards and 35 touchdowns and six interceptions while running 132 times for 770 yards and six scores.

Heintschel helped the Eagles get back to the playoffs and win their first league title in 42 years.

No other player received more than one vote for Offensive Player of the Year.

"He has been our guy the last three years, our leader. He was so consistently good; there are only a couple of games where he didn't play at a really high level," said former Clay coach John Galyas, who resigned after leading the team for the last eight years. "When we needed to make a play, he made it. He holds just about every passing record we have. He was the best quarterback we have ever had at Clay High School.

"He is an extremely hard worker and a great player. When he would speak up, our guys listened. He was a really good teammate as well, always positive, which is another reason why our guys would listen and rally around him," Galyas said. "He also never made it about himself, it was always about the team and his teammates."

Genoa's Dom Lindenberger received four votes for the Alan Miller Jewelers' Defensive Player of the Year, giving him the nod.

Lindenberger, a linebacker, had 101 tackles and seven tackles for loss.

His coach, Bill Fisher, had high praise for him.

"His attention to detail was phenomenal. He was always asking questions, watching film; he was very much into making sure he knew exactly what he and the guys around him were supposed to do," said Fisher. "He worked his tail off in the offseason leading up to this season, was in the best physical shape as far as strength and weight and gave track and field a shot to get faster. He fully committed to his training to become the player he is.

"He also played special teams and wanted to make the most tackles on kick-offs. That speaks volumes to the kind of player he was," Fisher said.

Lindenberger's career is only getting started.

"I know he wants to play college football," Fisher said.

The Alan Miller Jewelers' Lineman of the Year was Oak Harbor OT/DT Isaac Schulte, who earned All-Ohio honors as the offense's right tackle. He was a force on both sides of the ball throughout the sea-



#6 Mason Heintschel, who will play at the University of Pittsburgh, carries the ball as a Findlay defender looks to make a play. (Photo courtesy of Brady Ebanks Photography)

son for the Rockets. He broke his leg before the regional semifinal matchup with Liberty Center, which defeated the Rockets, 24-21. It certainly might have been a different story if Oak Harbor had the services of Schulte.

Schulte, a junior, received five votes while teammate Jacob Ridener got four. Ridener was also one vote short of being named the Defensive Player of the Year.

"Isaac comes from a football family. His dad, Scott, is our offensive line coach and his brother, Clay, was one of the best players that has ever come through this program," said Oak Harbor coach Mike May. "Isaac has a tremendous work ethic and very high character. He is also an excellent leader for us up front on both sides of the ball. Isaac takes great pride in finishing blocks on offense and is a dominant force on defense. He was rewarded for his play by being named first team, All-Ohio this season. Isaac Schulte represents everything that we want in a student-athlete here at

Oak Harbor."

May, who has coached at Oak Harbor for 17 years, was named Alan Miller Jewelers' Coach of the Year. He was quick to deflect praise and credited his loyal group of assistants for their efforts.

"I wish that Coach of the Year awards were renamed Coaching Staff of the Year awards because that is the case for us. I am very fortunate to have a great staff that truly cares about our players and are also great teachers of the game. We have seven coaches who are teachers at the high school and that is a huge advantage for our program," May said. "It allows our coaches to build relationships with our kids, and that has been a major key to our success on the field. Our staff has been together for a long time and I feel very lucky to be able to work with my best friends every day. I can't imagine having a better group of assistant coaches than we have here at Oak Harbor. They are more responsible for us winning games than I am."

“
His attention to detail was phenomenal. He was always asking questions, watching film; he was very much into making sure he knew exactly what he and the guys around him were supposed to do.
”

Last season was one of the finest in Rocket history as Oak Harbor proved itself to be one of the best teams in Division V while going 12-1 and winning its third consecutive league title, a first in program history.

"Our biggest victories came off the field. The team chemistry was the best of any team that I have ever coached and that was a reflection of our senior class," said May. "The seniors were fully bought in and held their teammates accountable to the standards of our program. Our staff enjoyed every moment that we were able to invest with this group of young men. It was fun to go to practice every day. Our seniors left a tremendous legacy and have set us up for future success."

the Press
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TOM CLUCKEY

Mud Hens name announcer

The Toledo Mud Hens have announced that Matt Melzak will be its head TV and radio play-by-play announcer for the 2025 season. He fills the position left by former Mud Hens broadcaster Jim Weber, who passed away last year.



Matt Melzak

Melzak is a veteran broadcaster with more than 20 years of experience. A familiar voice for the Toledo sports scene, he has provided color and play-by-play commentary for the Mud Hens since 2010. He has served as the lead broadcaster for the Toledo Walleye since its inaugural season in 2009 and served as the broadcaster for the Toledo Storm from 2003 to 2007. Melzak has called a combined total of 2,220 regular season and playoff games for the Hens, Walleye, and Storm. He is a graduate of St. Francis de Sales High School in Toledo and the University of Toledo.

"To follow in the footsteps of a great friend and legendary voice Jim Weber is truly an honor and something that I cherish," Melzak said. "It means so much to me to be selected to take on this role and continue to work with an organization that is truly first class. I am so excited and look forward to telling many stories to the wonderful and supportive fans of Mud Hens baseball and Walleye hockey for years to come."

"We could not think of a better person take on the role of Voice of the Mud Hens," said Erik Ibsen, executive vice president and general manager. "Matt is a talented broadcast professional with a deep knowledge and love for the sport of baseball and our team. We know he will do an excellent job of sharing the fun and excitement of Mud Hens baseball with our fans watching and listening around the world."

Melzak will take to the airwaves for the Mud Hens starting on Opening Day, Friday, March 28. Tickets for Opening Day and the rest of the 2025 season are on sale at mudhens.com.



Milestone

Ethan DeTray, a senior at Oak Harbor High School, reached a remarkable milestone in his wrestling career at his first varsity match of the year in Sidney, Montana. He reached the elite club of wrestlers who have won 100 matches in their varsity career. Ethan wrestles year-round and continues to add to his win total but for this specific milestone the only wins that count are those achieved during their varsity regular season matches. (Photo courtesy of Amie DeTray)

2024 Alan Miller Jewelers All-Press Football Team

Coach of the Year: Mike May, Oak Harbor

Offensive Player of the Year: Mason Heintschel, QB - Clay

Lineman of the Year: Isaac Schulte, Oak Harbor

Defensive Player of the Year: Dom Lindenberger, LB - Genoa

OFFENSE

FIRST TEAM

QB Mason Heintschel, Clay
 RB Landon Rich, Woodmore
 RB Carson Ridener, Oak Harbor
 RB Grant Smith, Gibsonburg
 WR Troy Hazuda, Clay
 WR Andre Lewis, Eastwood
 WR Tyler Thompson, Oak Harbor
 C Logan McKittrick, Oak Harbor

TE Cam Schumaker, Eastwood
 K Fulton Krupp, Oak Harbor
 OL Isaac Schulte, Oak Harbor
 OL Ethan Recker, Eastwood
 OL Jacob Ridener, Oak Harbor
 OL Hunter Wasserman, G'burg
 OL Zach Rahm, Clay
 P Michael Lalonde, Oak Harbor
 KR Andre Lewis, Eastwood

SECOND TEAM

Drew Luidhardt, Eastwood
 Jason St. Claire, Northwood
 Luke Clement, Genoa
 Kevin Lewis, Eastwood
 Jaxon Magnone, Genoa
 Brodi Ostrander, Clay
 Wyatt Augsburger, Oak Harbor
 Dom Donofrio, Clay

Hudson Byers, Clay
 Derek Harmer, Clay
 Alex Rife, Oak Harbor
 Jack Sensenig, Eastwood
 Eric Messenger, Genoa
 Ian Sibbersen, Eastwood
 Hondo Munoz, Genoa
 Drew Luidhardt, Eastwood
 Wyatt Augsburger, Oak Harbor

DEFENSE

FIRST TEAM

DL Isaac Schulte, Oak Harbor
 DL Leon Carey, Clay
 DL Cam Agler, Genoa
 DL Landon Eversman, Clay
 DE Jacob Ridener, Oak Harbor
 DE Paul Lautzenheiser, Eastwood
 LB Collin Greenwalt, Clay

LB Carson Ridener, Oak Harbor
 LB Dom Lindenberger, Genoa
 LB Hudson Byers, Clay
 DB Reese Walby, Gibsonburg
 DB Michael Lalonde, Oak Harbor
 DB Brayden Schultz, Clay
 DB Brock Messinger, Eastwood

SECOND TEAM

Hayden McGee, Oak Harbor
 Solaris Tedrow, Lake
 Hondo Munoz, Genoa
 Bailey Jenderzejak, Woodmore
 Spencer Waugaman, G'burg
 Travis Bouyer, Oak Harbor
 Cam Schumaker, Eastwood

Luke Foster, G'burg
 Connor Norton, Eastwood
 Antonio Salazar, G'burg
 Michael Seeger, Woodmore
 Anthony Gomez, Northwood
 Tyler Thompson, Oak Harbor
 Dayquan Oliver, Eastwood

Oregon Schools students excel in national vocabulary challenge



The third-grade team from Jerusalem Elementary School placed sixth in the nation in the WordMasters Challenge, a national vocabulary competition. (Submitted photo)

A team representing Oregon City Schools achieved highest honors in the 38th annual WordMasters Challenge — a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 125,000 students annually.

The third-grade team from Jerusalem Elementary School scored 167 points out of a possible 200 in the first of three meets this year, placing sixth in the nation.

Competing in the Gold Division of the WordMasters Challenge, students from Oregon City Schools who achieved outstanding results in the fall meet include Jerusalem Elementary third-grader Addison Allen and Eisenhower Intermediate School fifth-grader Grace Bickford. The students were coached in preparation for the challenge by instructors Susan Linville, Robin Sneed and Amy Bittel.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words which are consid-

erably harder than grade level and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically.

Although most vocabulary enrichment and analogy-solving programs are designed for use by high school students, WordMasters Challenge materials have been specifically created for younger students in grades three through eight. They are particularly well suited for children who are motivated by the challenge of learning new words and enjoy the logical puzzles posed by analogies.

The WordMasters Challenge program is administered by a New Jersey-based company dedicated to inspiring high achievement in American schools. Learn more about the challenge at wordmasterchallenge.com.

Oak Harbor High School hosts first-ever Career Day

On Jan. 17, Oak Harbor High School hosted its first Career Day, an event designed to inform and guide students as they explore their future career paths.

With more than 20 career presentations available, students participated in seven personalized sessions based on their interests and aptitudes. The event provided students with insights into a wide range of career options while offering the potential to spark new ideas for career paths.

Presentations showcased a wide range of fields, including mechanical and nuclear engineering (Davis-Besse), broadcasting and sports announcing, and various medical careers such as ultrasound technician, cardiac sonogra-

pher and family nurse practitioner.

Other presentations included the Ottawa County Major Crimes Unit and Border Patrol, HVAC, electrician, water and sewer maintenance, architecture, motion control robotics, computer science, Swig Ohio Shuttles, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ohio Department of Transportation, psychology, college professorship, commercial driving, and government and nonprofit administration. Additionally, eighth graders participated in virtual career simulations to explore potential career paths.

District officials credited high school career coaches Bethany Karbler and Chelsea Scott for planning and helping to make the event a success.



Oak Harbor High School students had the opportunity to explore a variety of career paths at a Career Day event held Jan. 17. (Submitted photo)



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Local students academic honors

Several metro and suburban-area students earned academic honors at their colleges and universities. They include:

Campbellsville University: Robert Wilkins, of Woodville.

Capital University: Katlyn Druckemiller, of Oregon; Roman Huss, of Genoa.

Cedarville University: Elisia Ackerman, of Curtice; Josiah Croyts, of Northwood; Robert Wilkins, of Woodville.

McKendree University: Abram Hagedorn, of Oregon.

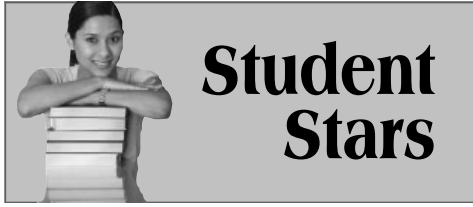
Miami University: Kent Horvath, of Northwood; Ava Castillo, Kendal Rivera, of Oregon; Hayley Buhro, Wade Warren, of Oak Harbor.

Ohio Wesleyan University: Brianna Montgomery, of Gibsonburg; Ian Sander, of Pemberville.

Olivet University: Camden Williams, of Oregon.

Pennsylvania Western University: Joslyn Jurski, of Oregon.

Southern New Hampshire University: Daniel Raymond and Brittany Toedter, of



Student Stars

Oregon; Elijah Page, Marz Rickey, of Oak Harbor; Christina Burnard, of Walbridge.

Terra State Community College: Amber Aldridge, Carson Chinchilla and Steve Kaiser, of Toledo; Kylie Lowe and Andrew Tucker, of Elmore; Sophia Paul and Heidi Rubel, of Gibsonburg; Jack Mikolas, Brady Thompson and Anthony Weiser, of Graytown; Brandon Minich, of Helena; Allison Gazdecki and Ashtyn Linkey, of Lindsey; Brock Hanney, Kenzie Henry, Gabrielle Janes and Chase Osborn, of Oak Harbor; Lindsay Stephens, of Pemberville.

Trine University: Mason Drummond, Isabella Mabry and Kelsey Osborn, of Oregon; Chelsea Drummond, of Walbridge.

Penta

Aspire program provides free GED classes

Penta Career Center's Aspire program offers free GED test preparation and other skill enhancement classes at 16 locations in Lucas and Wood counties.

Aspire provides adult learners with instruction that focuses on reading, math, writing, language, science and social studies to help them earn their high school equivalency/GED. Classes also help participants develop technology, workforce and career readiness skills.

Recently, the Aspire administrative offices moved from the Penta Career Center main campus at 9301 Buck Rd. in Perrysburg Township to Penta's satellite campus located at 1205 Corporate Drive in Holland.

"Our new location will provide many opportunities to expand our program offerings," said Jessica Arbuckle, supervisor of Aspire. "Adults interested in taking our free classes can begin by contacting the

Aspire office to register and then attend a mandatory orientation at one of our convenient classroom locations."

Among local Aspire class locations in Lucas County are the East Toledo Senior Center, Oregon Branch Library, Ohio Means Jobs/Job & Family Services Building and Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. In Wood County, classes are offered at the Perrysburg Heights Community Center and the Wood County Public Library. Most classes are held two days per week for three hours each day.

Aspire is also partnering with area employers to develop education classes that align with workplace goals to upskill employees and increase productivity. Employers interested in developing workplace education programs can contact the Aspire office for more information.

For more info call 419-491-8433 or email lromstadt@pentacc.org.



Obituaries

"When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure".



Taylor

Wm. (Billy) Taylor passed away at his home in Barnsville, Ohio on January 1, 2025. He was born on July 23, 1957 to James and Barbara (Sherer) Taylor in Oregon, Ohio.



He graduated from Lake High School in 1976 where he played basketball and baseball. He was also an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching the Buckeyes play and also the Raiders. He also enjoyed fishing when he lived in Haines City, Fl.

Billy is survived by his son Michael Robert Stribney, his companion Judy Hayes and her family, Tina, Scott, Shannon, Tiffany, Scotty & Prescott. Also his siblings: Sharon Willard, Jackie Rice, Jerry and Jim.

He is preceded in death by his parents James and Barbara.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday February 1st from 1:00 to 4:00 @ the Goodwill Spiritualist Church, 300 Breckman Street, Walbridge.

All donations can be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children.

Lind



Elizabeth (Schnee) Lind, born April 10, 1929 to Edward and Minnie (Dahly) Schnee, was called home Monday, January 20, 2025, peacefully, with her loving family by her side.

On February 6, 1948, she married Lionel Blair Lind and together raised six children. Elizabeth was a hardworking, dedicated, and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She took great pride in the operation of the family turkey farm which became a cherished family business for over 50 years and a cornerstone of the Curtice community. Elizabeth also enjoyed working faithfully in her garden until age 93. The Lind home was a welcoming place for neighborhood children to gather after school for many years. As a faithful servant of God, Elizabeth dedicated countless hours volunteering at St. Lukes Lutheran Church. In recent years Elizabeth joyfully gave those who visited packets of sunflower seeds to grow in their home garden.

Elizabeth is survived by her children, Sharon (David) Dean, James (Connie) Lind, Lloyd (Heidi) Lind, and Jennifer (Mark) Mentzer; grandchildren, Thomas (Sara) Lajti, Elizabeth Taylor, Eric (Sarah) Lajti, Randy (Natalie) Lajti, Adam (Bridget) Dean, Justin (Noelle) Dean, Megan (Jeremy) Swartz, Jimmy (Lindi) Lind, Nicole (Vince) Herrera, Amy (Chris) Buechner, Susan (Lance) Harris, Rachel Mentzer, and Ven Mentzer; 26 great-grandchildren, 5 great-great-grandchildren; half-sisters, Barbara Crosser and Joan Styles; along with many nieces, nephews, loving family members, and dear friends. Preceded in death by her husband, Blair Lind; parents; children, Sandra (Tom) Lajti and Brian Lind; sister, Mildred Diefenthaler; and half-sister, Joyce Cornell. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 25, 2025 with interment in Williston Cemetery. Preferred memorials to St. Lukes Lutheran Church. Eggleston Meinert & Pavley Funeral Home

www.egglestonmeinert.com

Malik

Dianna Malik, known as Deedee, was born on April 29, 1958 in Detroit, Michigan. Her loving parents were Lillian and John Malik. She was the youngest of nine children. Deedee was her dad's "Sparkle-in-his-eye". Deedee was a very cute toddler and a happy child. She was very loved by all of her family.

As a child and teen, Dianna attended a special needs school in Detroit. She remained home with her mom and dad. When her dear father passed away, she moved with her mother and brother David to a lovely home in Livonia, Michigan. She remained at home helping with house chores and watching TV, Deedee most enjoyed music and dancing, coloring, doing jigsaw puzzles, and visiting family.

When her mother passed away, Dianna, at age 46, moved in with her brother Tony and sister-in-law Michelle known as Mickie. She became an active part of their family. Deedee enjoyed the attention given to her by Tony and Mickie, her nephews, Tony, Kevin, and Carl, and her niece Elly. She took part in gardening, cooking, shopping, and crafts. Michael brought her a beautiful bedroom set that she quickly filled with clothes and "pretty things". Deedee enjoyed stuffed animals and had quite a collection. Her favorite was her stuffed dog named Maria sometimes called Rosemary. She was welcomed into an art group where she showed her creative side.

Dianna worked and did social activities at the Wood Lane School and Industries in Bowling Green. She enjoyed swimming twice a week at the pool there and took part in dance parties and social outings.

After her retirement from the industries, Dianna attended adult day care in Perrysburg where she enjoyed socializing, doing crafts, outings to the park, musical events, and meal prep skills.

Dianna remained at Tony and Mickie's home for approximately 15 years. When she started to need more extensive care, outside of a home setting, she moved to a group home in Bowling Green. Deedee did activities in the home and enjoyed family visits and outings. After the mandated COVID isolation, her health started to regress.

After a hospitalization, Dianna moved to a rehab center for a short time. Dianna was welcomed into a small-town ICF home in which her more extensive care needs would be met. This was the Rollie Hampton Home in Walbridge, Ohio. She lived only 5 miles from Tony and Mickie and was closer to other family members. Dianna was treated kindly in a home setting with caring staff to help with her 24-hour needs.

Dianna entered hospice care in October of last year. Remaining at her home in Walbridge, she received quality comfort care and any spiritual needs from the home caregivers and hospice services.

Deedee is survived by her siblings Thomas (Carol) Malik, Rosemary (Dick Herdrick) Quigley, James Malik, David (Cathy) Malik, Michael Malik, and Anthony (Michelle) Malik; nieces and nephews Matthew, Richard, Bill (Apple), Pat, Terri (Frank), Christopher, Kitty, Tim, Tony (Alana), Kevin, Carl (Jen), Elly (Josh); sister-in-law Carol Malik; and many great-nieces and great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents John and Lillian, brothers John and George, and nephew Paul.

A visitation will be held at Freck Funeral Chapel 1155 S Wynn Rd in Oregon, Ohio on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, from 2 until 8 p.m. with a funeral service at 6 p.m. Burial will be held at St. Hedwig Cemetery 23755 Military Rd. in Dearborn Heights, Michigan on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Tony, Michelle, their children, and the entire family would like to sincerely thank all of her loving caregivers and those people who visited her and brought kindness and a happy smile to our beloved Deedee during her life.

www.freckchapel.com

Obituaries can be emailed to classified@presspublications.com or call 419-836-2221 for more info. DEADLINE: Wednesday 4:00 PM.

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80 Help Wanted

Wanted To Hire OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
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 Main responsibilities include creating publications, staffing the office, and financial bookkeeping.
 Send a cover letter and resume including three references to Pastor Matt Mustersic mattmustersic@proton.me
 Candidates are encouraged to apply by February 7, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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The paper will scrutinize submission of any classified ad that has potential earmarks of a scam of our reading public. If the advertiser is placing an ad seeking employees, we require that the name and place of business be provided for the safety of our reading customers. We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement that sounds dubious on its face. If we accept an advertisement that generates reader concerns about the intentions of the advertiser, we will not refund money for any unpublished ad.

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306 Eagle Point Rd, Rossford Ohio



Check out this 3 bedroom him in Rossford coming up for auction on Mon. Feb. 3rd at 4 PM! With over 1,800 sq. feet, open floor plan, basement, and large back deck, you'll have plenty of space to enjoy! 3-FULL baths! First floor laundry. Basement has all new carpet and includes space for a potential 4th bedroom. Updates include blown insulation, new vapor barrier and insulation in crawl, new basement windows, roof, furnace, and hot water tank - all new within the last 5 years! Stainless steel appliances stay! **Preview and registration begin at 3 PM.**

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HarborView Financial Audit/Report

The Financial Audit for years 2022-2023 and the FINANCIAL REPORT for 2024 are completed.
Resolutions 05-2004 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS 06-2024 ACCEPTING GRANT FOR PARK,07-2024 CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN PARKS EQUIPMENT.
The full texts can be viewed at the office of the mayor at regular office hours or by appointment. Lorraine Crapsey Clerk/Treasurer, Village of HarborView.

Woodville Twp. Public Notice

The Woodville Township Trustees will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Woodville Township Fire Station, 321 East Main Street, Woodville, Ohio to discuss an addition to the Township Zoning Resolution as recommended by the Woodville Township Zoning Commission.
The Zoning Commission has recommended adding a permitted use to the agricultural district section of a "Personal Recreation Area."
Information regarding this change is available for public viewing at the Woodville Public Library, 101 East Main Street, Woodville.
Persons who desire to state objection or support for this proposed change are encouraged to appear in person or by attorney at this meeting. Correspondence may be mailed to Woodville Township, P.O. Box 121, Woodville, Ohio 43469.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS City of Northwood

The City of Northwood, Ohio is seeking bids for two 2026 Ford Police Interceptor Sport Utility Vehicles. Two 2020 Ford PI SUVs, with around 110,000 miles each, will be traded in as part of this bid. These vehicles will be used until the new vehicles are delivered. Sealed bids will be accepted starting February 3, 2025, and ending March 3, 2025, at 12:00pm. Sealed bids must be sent to the Office of the City Clerk located within the Northwood Municipal Building, 6000 Wales Rd., Northwood, Ohio 43619. Sealed bids will be opened thereafter in the Council Chambers.
The City of Northwood reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
A copy of specifications can be obtained in person from the office of the City Clerk or by calling 419-690-1621, Monday through Friday 8:00am through 4:30pm. Returned bids **MUST** be accompanied by a specifications check-off sheet that notes which items are included with the bid price. Any questions, including those regarding the trade-in vehicles, should be directed to Chief Zahradnik at 419-690-1622.

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Clay Twp. Zoning Variance Board Meeting request/notice.
RDE Real Estate LLC located at 21611 SR 51, is requesting a variance to exceed the height restriction of an accessory building.
Meeting date, Wednesday February 5th, 2025 at 6:00pm.
Location, Clay Township Administration office
21774 Holts East, Genoa Ohio 43430.
Public input is welcome.
Questions or Comments feel free to call
David Dunn, Zoning Inspector
Clay Township Zoning, 419 855 2079

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Jerusalem TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE
Jerusalem Township, Lucas County, Ohio OLEC Coastal & Shoreline Resilience Levee Improvements - Phase 1 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
The Jerusalem Township Trustees are seeking Statements of Qualifications for the OLEC Coastal & Shoreline Resilience Planning in accordance with ORC Sections 153.65 thru 153.71. Firms interested in being considered for a contract to provide the required services should visit the Township website at <https://twp.jerusalem.oh.us/> to obtain a copy of the full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and associated information.
Responses to the RFQ must be submitted prior to 3:00 p.m. (Local Time) on February 21, 2025. Please contact Township Trustee, Alex Lytten via email at Alex.Lytten@twp.jerusalem.oh.us if any questions.

Invitation to Comment on a Proposed Communications Tower Facility
All interested persons are invited to review and request further environmental processing of an FCC application for a proposed 195-foot (199 feet maximum with appurtenances) monopole communications tower located southeast of Bono Road and Bono Port Clinton Road/Highway 2 in Curtice (Jerusalem Township), Fulton County, Ohio (approx. 41 - 38 - 12.90N, 83 - 15 - 34.59W).
The application may be reviewed by entering the 854 file number A1306382 at this website: www.fcc.gov/asr/applications. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns by filing a Request for Environmental Review" within 30 days of this publication. Marking and/or lighting is not necessary for aviation safety. Instructions for filing requests are contained on the following website:
www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest.
The FCC strongly encourages requests to be filed online; however, written requests may also be sent by mail to the following address:
FCC Requests for Environmental Review,
Attn: Ramon Williams
445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.
(#42028-FCC)

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF NORTHWOOD
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
The Board of Zoning Appeals scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers located at 6000 Wales Road has been cancelled.
Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Tuesday of each month as needed.
Attest:
A. Stribrny, Zoning/Code Enforcement
PLANNING COMMISSION
The Planning Commission scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers located at 6000 Wales Road has been cancelled.
Planning Commission Meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of the month as needed.
Attest:
A. Stribrny, Zoning/Code Enforcement

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for more information.
DEADLINE: 11 a.m. Thursdays

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